

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended and are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the following remarks.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,436 to Kurachi.

By this Response and Amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended and the rejection of claims 1 and 2 respectfully traversed.

Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 2 can be found for example in paragraphs [0038] and [0053] of the published application.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132, has been introduced. In addition, the amendments do not present any new issues that would require further consideration or search and the amendment is meant to clarify the invention.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Kurachi.

Response

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested since not all of the features of the claims are disclosed, taught, or suggested by the prior art.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must establish: (1) some suggestion or motivation to modify the references exists; (2) a reasonable expectation of success; and (3) the prior art references teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. *Amgen, Inc. v. Chugai Pharm. Co.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *In re Fine*, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Wilson*, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

Claim 1, as amended, recites “[a] printer driver” wherein, *inter alia*, “if a watermark print item is selected on the setting items, a secret operation item for allowing said stencil printing machine to execute a secret keeping operation for print data is selected accordingly in cooperation with the selection of the watermark print item; and information on the setting items, including the secret operation item, are transmitted, together with the print data, to the stencil printing machine only when the watermark print item is one of the selected setting items.” (*Emphasis Added*).

Claim 2, as amended, recites “[a] printer driver” wherein, *inter alia*, “if a watermark print item is selected on the setting items, a selection screen of a secret operation item for allowing said stencil printing machine to execute a secret keeping operation for print data is displayed in cooperation with the selection of the watermark print item; the setting items are made selectable; and information on the selected setting items, including the secret operation item, are transmitted, together with the print data, to the stencil printing machine only when the watermark print item is one of the selected setting items.” (*Emphasis Added*).

The Examiner acknowledges that the AAPA does not teach the feature of incorporating a secret operation setting into the printer driver, and moreover does not teach the feature of automatic selection of the secret operation setting if the printer driver determines that a watermark print is

selected. The Examiner cites Kurachi in attempting to cure the deficiency of AAPA.

Kurachi teaches a print managing system and print managing method. In Kurachi, “[a] secret setting information input device (not shown) enables the selection whether or not [an] encryption is executed.” *See* column 13, lines 55 - 62. Further, “if the print data and the secret setting information are received...and then the client apparatus requires [sending] the print job information, the secret setting information corresponding to the print data is determined...whether or not the print job information corresponding to the print data can be sent.” *See* column 17, lines 8 - 25.

As such, Kurachi fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a printer driver where a secret keeping operation for print data is selected accordingly in cooperation with the selection of the watermark print item as recited in amended claim 1; and a secret keeping operation for print data secret is displayed in cooperation with the selection of the watermark print item as recited in claim 2.

In contrast with the selection of a secret operation item of the present invention, Kurachi teaches selecting whether print data is encrypted. Further, the Examiner maintains that “watermark print is widely known and available in the art” and that “setting defaults for automatically selecting certain features/functions are well known and widely available in the art” by citing supporting references. However, nowhere in Kurachi does the reference discuss the selection of a secret operation item for print data in cooperation with the selection of a watermark print item. Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner has not shown a basis in the prior art for the knowledge that printer drivers can conditionally select such secret operation items when other print items are selected such as a watermark print item.

Also, Kurachi fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a printer driver where information on the setting items, including the secret operation item, are transmitted, together with the print data, to the

stencil printing machine only when the watermark print item is one of the selected setting items” as recited in claim 1; and information on the selected setting items, including the secret operation item, are transmitted, together with the print data, to the stencil printing machine only when the watermark print item is one of the selected setting items” as recited in claim 2.

In contrast with the simultaneous transmission of information on the selected setting items and print data as in the present invention, Kurachi teaches sending the print job data if the data can be published and not displaying print job information to be kept secret. There is no discussion anywhere that information on the secret operation item is transmitted with the print data only when the watermark print item is selected.

As the combination of AAPA and Kurachi fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a printer driver according to amended independent claims 1 and 2 of the present invention, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

CONCLUSION

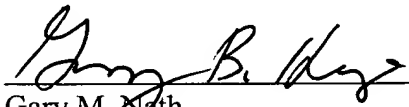
In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,
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